MONTEREY NEWS

November 2017
Est. 1970 Vol. XLVII · Number 11

Pick up copies at: the general store, library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand (in-season)

Can you guess which bridge in town needs to be replaced after sixty-two years? See page 12.

"Enough is enough" refers to the absolute mess that is broadband deployment in western Massachusetts.
P.O. Box 9 page 23

Mayra and I have been working hard on trying to send much needed food supplies to Puerto Rico.
Make a Difference Day page 27

An officer responded to a report of a person lying on the ground. He was laying down because his legs were tired.
Police Report page 14

The 'veil' refers to the flexible wall separating what we know from what we don't. It's the thin red line between visible and hidden realities
Navigating November page 17

Fiona has appreciation and love for nature, an unyielding desire to help and support those in need, and a deep sense of empathy for all people.
Who's Who-Fiona DeRis page 19

Bonsai Cox

Daylight Savings Time
"Falls Behind"
Sunday, November 5, at 2 a.m.

The committee is inviting everyone with interest in access to high speed broadband service to a meeting on November 16, at 7 p.m.
Broadband Committee page 5

The Zoning Board of Appeals has an opening for an alternate member. The alternate is asked to serve if a regular member of the board is unable to do so.
ZBA Alternate Member page 7

Brian Fahey is a former sergeant in the military police and has over twelve years of local, full-time police experience.
Meet our New Sergeant page 2

We have coin banks for the children in town so they can contribute and help build the new children's area.
Library News page 2

Saturday, November 11, is Armistice Day/ Veterans Day. All Monterey veterans are invited to a free breakfast at the Monterey General Store, at 9:30 a.m.
Council on Aging page 6

Dr. Carole Owens will talk about her latest book, *Remarkable Women of New England*. She is the author many books, newspaper columns, and feature articles.
Community Potluck Supper page 8

The Monterey Community Center programming committee will host an ongoing handwork gathering for those who knit, crochet, etc., on the first Thursdays of each month.
Town Yarners page 9

Monterey Library Notes

A belated thank you to Nathan and Gould Farm's Harvest Barn for donating treats to the children who recorded the books they read this summer. They enjoyed some very delicious rewards for their labors. Over one hundred and fifty children of all ages attended the summer programs making it a successful summer all around.

Thanks to everyone who has generously contributed to the Friends of the Monterey Library capital campaign. The Friends' appeal letter will be out shortly. If you don't get one, please stop in and we will gladly explain the project to you, as well as our fundraising goal. There are also naming opportunities, so please contact us if you would like to help. We have coin banks for the children in town so they can contribute and help build the new children's area. Stop in to get one, and we will gladly accept donations from children ages birth to ninety-nine, whether they live in Monterey year-round or just occasionally visit. The children may not fully understand, but this is one way the community can show how valued they are.

Mid-August 2017 *Mid-October 2017*

With your help we have been working with the architects again to finalize the plans and apply for permits. We are starting up the building committee in November and will spend the next three months finalizing the drawings. We recently met with the state and were given the reviewers' comments. They are very happy with the project so far. We hope to have at least one more public information session about the design. Of course all our meetings will be posted and are open for you to attend should you have any concerns. Now is the time, as we finalize before going out to bid, to revisit the design. There are many details to work out, such as how to make sure the Knox Gallery continues to be so vibrant in its new space. It is an exciting time to be around the library, so stop in just to chat about the progress if you'd like. We'll help you find something else you wanted to check out as well.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

Sergeant Brian Fahey
Meet Our New Full-Time Officer

Everyone is invited to meet our new addition to the Monterey Police Department, from 9 to 10 a.m., at town hall on Saturday, November 18. Brian Fahey is a former sergeant in the military police and has over twelve years of local, full-time police experience. He is highly trained, professional, friendly, and views community policing as one of his top priorities.

Some of you may question why Monterey needs a sergeant. We considered that ourselves until we sat down individually on multiple occasions with Chief Backhaus. While Monterey is significantly smaller in population than some of our neighboring towns, we are still faced with the same issues, situations, and emergencies. Dealing with them requires a full-time, well-qualified police force. A sergeant carries more responsibility and authority than an officer and allows for decisions to be made when the Chief is unavailable. Brian's experience and references leave us no doubt that he will do an exemplary job as the second in command.

Please welcome Brian to our community. We are confident that after meeting him you will leave knowing that the policing duties in Monterey are in good hands.

—Monterey Select Board

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us November 15 to hear:
Dr. Carole Owens

She will talk about her latest book, *Remarkable Women of New England*.

See the community potluck supper article on page 8.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

The *Monterey News* is published monthly by The Monterey News Inc, PO Box 9, Monterey, MA 01245-0009.

Holiday Ornament workshop w/Wendy Jensen

Sunday, Nov 19
1 - 4 p.m.

$30 ea - limit 10 students
Register/info: 413-528-5134

Monterey Community Center

Harvest Barn Bakery *at* Gould Farm

Sat & Sun 9:00 am - 3:00 pm
(Self-Serve Wed - Fri 9:00 - 3:00)

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Lake Garfield Working Group

The citizen action team of the Lake Garfield Working Group (LGWG) met October 16 for its monthly meeting at the town hall.

The topic of review and discussion was a preliminary report from Dr. Ken Wagner, PhD, of Water Resource Services in Wilbraham, MA, of the findings of the Lake Garfield water quality survey undertaken with a matching grant (604b) from the Town of Monterey. Dr. Wagner has extensive experience in studying and managing water resources across New England as well as having conducted prior studies on Lake Garfield. Included in the study that took place from April to September in the lake and its tributaries were water and sediment samplings at different depths, measurements of the location, quality, and quantity of surface water runoff in both dry and wet weather, and measurements of soil seepage rates and point source pollution. Members of the LGWG as well as one non-committee member of the town were encouraged to hear from Dr. Wagner that while there are potential areas of concern relative to the lake water quality, the preliminary assessment is primarily positive. Citing that the analysis of the measurements taken throughout the study has yet to be completed, Dr. Wagner was cautious in his assessment, pointing out that the final results will not be available until the end of the year.

In addition to the water quality study, Dr. Wagner's team was able to make assessments of lake plant life including evaluations of the invasive milfoil, that were useful in guiding the work of New England Aquatic Services in diver-assisted suction harvesting (DASH) of milfoil conducted in late September under contract with the Town of Monterey, as described in earlier editions of this committee's report to the *Monterey News*.

Following Dr. Wagner's preliminary report, including many questions from the LGWG, the committee paused to appreciate this season's successful implementation of both the 604b Lake Water Quality Assessment and the DASH achieved through the cooperation and work of many town residents and officials.

Moving forward, the LGWG planned that our next meeting will address the near- and long-term priorities in our endeavor to establish an integrated lake management program capable of bringing the efforts of all interested parties together for the ongoing wellbeing of the lake and our town. To this end we continue to invite the participation of all interested parties to join us at our next meeting in the town hall, at 7 p.m., on Monday, November 13.

— Steve Snyder
Lake Garfield Working Group

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COMING EVENTS
IN THE GALLERY NOV 4-26
ROBIN THEW
RECEPTION: SAT, NOV 4 2-4 PM
Lecture for the artist by KATIE ROCCO
NOV 4 at 3 PM
SAT, NOV 4 8:00 PM $20
GUITARIST JOEL BROWN
"...sensuality and emotional warmth characterize his extraordinary musicianship..."
(Albany Times-Union)
FRI, NOV 10 6:00 PM
FREE MOVIE NIGHT
& POT LUCK DINNER
1959 Alfred Hitchcock thriller
"NORTH BY NORTHWEST"
FRI, DEC 1 7:00 PM
SAT, DEC 2 7:00 PM
SUN, DEC 3 2:00 PM
JACK AND THE MAGIC BEANSTALK
Written by LINDA DAUGHERTY in 1996
Performed by the SANDISFIELD PLAYERS and friends
These programs are supported in part by a grant from the Sandisfield Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

Event Publicity in the Monterey News

In the September issue of this paper, there was a notice concerning the delayed delivery of the second-class mailed copies of the *Monterey News*. The recent October issue was not delivered until the fourth week of the month.

One unfortunate result of this delay is that events scheduled for the earlier part of a month, which rely on publicity through the *News*, might not be read about until after the event has past.

If your organization is planning an event, especially one scheduled during the first half of an upcoming month, I encourage you to send at least basic event information to the paper well in advance. For example, if you're planning an event for sometime in January, and can notify the *Monterey News* in time for the December issue, I will be happy to, at the very least, list the event in the calendar. If you have more complete information, a short descriptive article may be placed at the same time, with a more complete article in the issue for the pertaining month. The sooner you know, the more effective the *News* can be for informing the readers.

Emailed Monthly Calendar

As a service to our readers, I am creating a list of email addresses of folks who would like just the upcoming month's calendar emailed to them. This would let you know about coming events regardless of when you received the mailed *Monterey News*. This would be sent as soon as the paper is completed for the beginning of each month. Print it (only one page) and forward it to friends.

If you would like to be on this list, email montereynews9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area, and include your name.

— Stephen Moore, Editor

Transfer Station Winter Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

Knox Gallery
November News

Images of Our World, a collection of photographs from every continent taken by award-winning photographers Dan Mead and Sally Eagle, will be on view at the Knox Gallery through December 2. We hope everyone will enjoy the sense of wonder that these artists convey from their travels. Through these images, viewers experience the inspirational beauty of landscapes and architecture, traditional ceremonies of faraway cultures, and wildlife in their natural settings. It's almost like being there!

Please see the October *Monterey News* for more information on Eagle and Mead.

Eclipsed Community Exhibit

We hope everyone is inspired to participate in our upcoming community exhibition, *Eclipsed*. Spectacular images of the 2017 solar eclipse, both professional and amateur, filled papers and flooded social media. Less literally, "eclipsed" refers to something blocked, hidden, upstaged, transcended, concealed, overshadowed or darkened. We look forward to a broad range of visual interpretations of this theme.

Original work in all media will be accepted, one piece per person, no larger than 24" in any dimension. All work must be hand-delivered to the library on Monday, December 4, 7 and 9 p.m., or Tuesday, December 5, 9 a.m. to noon, and picked up at the library Saturday, January 13, 7 to 9 p.m., or Monday, January 15, 7 to 9 p.m. "Intent to Enter" forms are available at the library and on the gallery's website, and are due by November 28. Further instructions are on the form.

The library has undertaken a major capital campaign, and so we ask that all artists submit work that is for sale, and well priced, if at all possible. We encourage gallery patrons to support the library, and take home a piece of original artwork. The Friends of the Library have funded the gallery for several years, and our community seems to have benefitted from its programs. Thank you for returning the favor to support the gallery.

All exhibits can be viewed during library hours. Knox Gallery, Monterey Library, MontereyMassLibrary.org/knox-gallery/, 452 Main Road, Monterey, MA, 413-528-3795. Facebook.com/Knox Gallery Instagram.com/knoxgallery @ Knox_Gallery on Twitter.

—MaryPaul Yates

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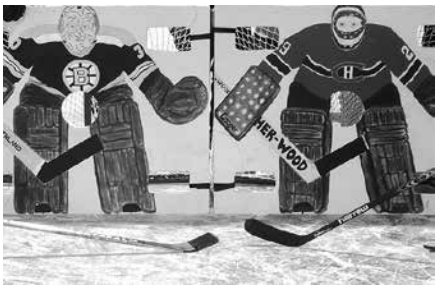

Mark Warner

Parks Commission

There was another successful summer at the lake with lifeguards arranged through Berkshire South and free swimming lessons. The lifeguards were provided with more equipment: fins and masks, two umbrellas, and a second chair. We added two accessible picnic tables, one for Green Park and one for lakeside. The second kayak storage unit was quickly occupied and with a total of twenty-four spots, the problem of boats being scattered around has been resolved. Regular maintenance of the softball field will continue as long as the weather holds and there are games.

On the first Saturday in August, the field was the site of movie night. Perhaps because there was a forecast of stormy weather, or maybe owing to insufficient publicity, the event was sparsely attended. The commission will be reviewing whether the tradition should continue and would appreciate input. Pam Johnson would be happy to receive and pass on ideas. Pam can be contacted by email at pjjohnson1144@gmail.com.

This fall, the commission supported the Halloween event located in the library. We have also arranged for more of the skating rink side panels to be repaired. We are seeking volunteers to help for a couple of hours with the setting up of the rink on Saturday, December 2, starting at 9:30 am. No tools or experience required. And no experience necessary to enjoy the coffee and doughnuts that will be on hand!

—Pam Johnson
Monterey Parks Commission

Broadband Committee
Time to Share Information

Three weeks ago Charter Spectrum, a cable and broadband provider, sent a letter to Monterey stating that they had changed their original proposal away from a coaxial cable-based network, and were now ready to offer fiber optic technology to the home, similar to what Fiber Connect is also offering. Charter suggested that we get in touch if we were interested in exploring this change.

Well, as of this writing in late October, three weeks have passed, and after a number of e-mails and phone calls there still has been no response. Although we felt vindicated that our rejection of Charter's first proposals for a coaxial cable-based network was the correct action, we have yet to get a clear picture of what they may be offering. Charter has not installed a fiber-to-the-home network anywhere else in the Berkshires and that raises a red flag, along with their lack of communication. Our friends in Egremont signed on with Charter five months ago and are only now having their first meeting in mid-November. It will be interesting to hear what Charter is proposing there.

The other side of the coin is Fiber Connect. While the broadband committee has pushed to have a fair review of Fiber Connect by the state, it has become clear to us that, for reasons unknown, the state has made it nearly impossible for the use of the money earmarked for Monterey to support Fiber Connect's work, by requiring conditions that go far beyond the safeguarding of the state's investment. Fiber Connect continues to install their fiber around town, and turn on customers in Monterey. They have passed 25% of the residences and have service connected to close to one hundred homes, but the dilemma we faced a year ago remains. While Monterey has a private, local company that is accomplishing what we need to reach an initial 70% of the homes, the state is demanding that we partner with a large corporation that would add at least another two to three years more to our goal of having a high-speed fiber network to 96% of Monterey homes.

At our last meeting, the Monterey Broadband Committee decided to hold a public forum so that we can share information and some of the frustration that has dogged us for the past five years. It is important that residents understand there are choices—fiber-to-the-home does not mean the same service from every provider. We sometimes forget that we need to keep everyone informed and we're at a critical junction.

November 16 Open Meeting

So—the committee is inviting everyone with interest in having access to high speed broadband service to a meeting on November 16, at 7 p.m., at the fire house. We hope to have a presentation of where we are at, and what questions and concerns need to be resolved. We are inviting Charter, Fiber Connect, and our state house representatives Adam Hinds and Smitty Pignatelli.

—Monterey Broadband Committee
Kenn Basler, Cliff Weiss, StevenWeisz.
Bill Johnson, and Larry Klein

If you would like to do a service for your fellow residents, perhaps you'll volunteer to report on this meeting? —Editor

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Council on Aging
November Activities

Weekly card games continue on Tuesdays at 1 p.m., at the community center. If you play Pitch, please come and fill in the table. Bridge usually has two tables.

Balance Review sessions continue on Wednesdays at 1:30 p.m., at the community center.

Scheduled Events

Thursday, November 9, from 9 to 11:30 a.m., Jane Kelley, R.N. will offer foot care. Call 528-1443 x247 or 528-9151 for an appointment.

Also that Thursday, from 2 to 3 p.m., Nancy Slattery, R.N. will be giving a free talk about diabetes. Learn what you need to know about the disease and how to live with it. Both will be held at town hall.

Saturday, November 11, is Armistice Day/Veterans Day. All Monterey veterans are invited to a free breakfast at the Monterey General Store at 9:30 a.m. After our breakfast together, please join us at 10:30 for the Monterey Veterans Day observation, which will take place in front of the Monterey Library at the World War I monument. To join us at breakfast, please RSVP 528-1443 x247.

Tuesday, November 14, the Monument Mountain High School's Fall Festival for Seniors will be held. The concert will be in the school auditorium at 11 a.m., followed by a delicious luncheon served in the cafeteria at 12:15 pm. Please RSVP by November 6 by calling 528-1443 x247.

Jenn Bailey, a SHINE counselor (a state program, Serving the Health Insurance Needs of Everyone), is available to review Medicare plans; the current change period continues until December 7. Jenn can be reached at 528-1881 for appointments at town hall or in Great Barrington.

— Kay Purcell

MONTEREY LIBRARY

Monday	7–9 p.m.
Tuesday	9:00 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Wednesday	2–5 p.m.
Thursday	4–6 p.m.
Friday	4–8 p.m.
Saturday	9:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
	7–9 p.m.

Bidwell House Museum
Thanksgiving Party

The air is cool, the leaves have fallen, and frost glistens on the grass each morning. It is a season to slow down and savor the warmth of a convivial gathering of friends and neighbors.

On Saturday, November 18, from 4 to 7 p.m., join the Bidwell House Museum for the eleventh annual fall fundraising party—our colonial holiday of Thanksgiving—to be held this year at the museum. Delight in the festive décor of Reverend Adonijah Bidwell's beautiful Georgian Saltbox home while helping the museum celebrate a successful 2017 season. Enjoy cocktails and hors d'oeuvres as the museum says thank you to all of the members and friends in the community who support this enchanting place. A silent auction will offer antiques, gifts, and other treasures—perfect for the holidays. For more information or to purchase tickets, call 413-528-6888, or go to the museum website at BidwellHouseMuseum.org.

All proceeds from this party support the museum, its programs, maintenance of the historic structures, and the preservation of its open space.

Don't forget—while the house may be closed for tours, the grounds and gardens are open all year, free of charge. There are over four miles of trails on the Bidwell House Museum grounds where you can take a brisk walk in the woods, exercise your dog, or even go snowshoeing. Trail maps can be found on the front porch of the house and at the kiosks on the property. Or you can go to the home page of the museum website and download a map available under the "Information" tab.

The Bidwell House Museum is located at 100 Art School Rd in Monterey. The house will reopen for tours on Memorial Day 2018.

— Heather Kowalski
Executive Director

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Hume New England
Training International Leaders

Hume New England Christian Camp is known primarily as a youth camp, and rightfully so, as we conduct six weeks of summer camp and six weekends of winter camp for middle school and high school students. But did you know that Hume New England also hosts a wide range of other groups that come to our camp to enjoy Monterey's beautiful setting and utilize the facilities on a year-round basis?

In addition to being a Christian youth camp, Hume New England is also a Christian retreat center. There is something different about a retreat—something different about getting away from daily routines and distractions. A retreat offers the opportunity for the members of a group to do things together, to build relationships, to learn, and to grow in their faith.

So who are these groups that come to Monterey and venture up the hill to Hume New England? Historically, the groups have been college groups, men's groups, women's groups, and the traditional church youth groups. But as I write this, we are hosting one of our more unique groups, the Pointman Leadership Institute. This organization, founded in 1996, is currently conducting a "Train the Trainer" seminar with participants who have traveled here from around the world—specifically from the central African countries of the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, and Cameroon.

The Pointman Leadership Institute focuses on and teaches time-tested principles that empower leaders with wisdom, conviction, and character. This retreat has brought together business leaders, government officials, military officers, and law enforcement personnel. They have come to learn the character traits of inspirational, trustworthy leaders and how to apply the Ten Commandments—referred to as the Ten Ancient Principles—to positively impact their organization, their culture, and their society.

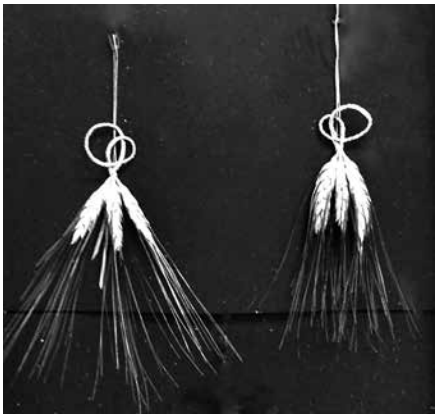
These worldwide leaders will take with them the necessary knowledge and tools to inspire and train others within their sphere of influence. Hume New England, tucked in our corner here in Monterey, is pleased to partner with Pointman and other organizations and churches to help carry out the vision of each group, to reinforce their Christian ministry, and to be—as our logo portrays—the beginning of a ripple that spreads throughout the world.

—John Szablowski
Hume New England Director

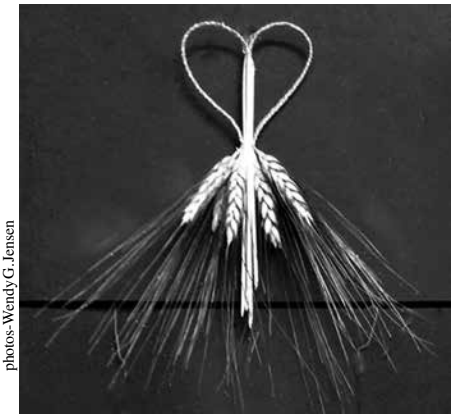
Zoning Board of Appeals
Alternate Member Needed

The Zoning Board of Appeals has an opening for an alternate member. This is an appointed position (by the select board, upon recommendation by the ZBA). The alternate is asked to serve if a regular member of the ZBA is unable to do so. The ZBA averages three to four hearings a year. Hearings usually take place at 3 p.m. on a weekday and usually do not require a significant time commitment. Interest in land use and zoning is helpful. Please send a short letter to the ZBA, c/o Town of Monterey, PO Box 308, Monterey, MA 01245, if you are interested in serving as an alternate member.

—Jon Levin, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals



Love Knots



photos-Wendy G. Jensen

Braided Heart

Community Center Program
Ornament Weaving Workshop

On Sunday, November 19, from 1 to 4 p.m., there will be a woven-wheat ornaments workshop at the Monterey Community Center, 468 Main Road.

In many cultures throughout history, at the end of the harvest season, wheat was woven, braided, and plaited, to create a harvest symbol to capture the "growing spirit," and hung in the home until the next planting season, when it was returned to the soil.

Spend an afternoon learning to work with wheat straw to make a "Love Knot" and a "Braided Heart." Wendy Jensen will provide instruction as well as all the materials and tools.

There is a limit of ten adults, so registration required. No prior experience is necessary. The fee is $30 per student, which includes materials. For scholarship information, please call.

To register, or for additional information, please call 413-528-5134.

Wendy G. Jensen is an award-winning professional basket maker living in Monterey. She teaches workshops at many museums, crafts schools, and conventions, as well as in her own studio. Her work can also be seen at several juried craft shows and gallery exhibits around the US. Her work was most recently published in *500 Baskets* by Lark Books.

This program is sponsored by the Monterey Community Center.

Community Potluck Supper
November 15

Derek Gentile from the *Berkshire Eagle* kicked off the potluck season in October in fine fashion. We had a delightful evening listening to what he called "war stories," interesting experiences he's had in his twenty-seven years at the *Eagle*. Thank you, Derek.

For November, we are very lucky to have Dr. Carole Owens to talk about her latest book, *Remarkable Women of New England*. She is the author of seven books, two newspaper columns, and numerous feature articles. As a local historian, Owens was named Scholar in Residence by the Massachusetts Foundation for the Humanities. She will be signing and selling her books.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, November 15, at 6 p.m., in the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please join us with a dish to share with a serving utensil and a place setting and silverware for yourself. Everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

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Want to Save Some Money?
Do Something Good for Yourself?

Special holiday offering in Kundalini Yoga. Attend four classes of Kundalini Yoga for the price of three. $30.00 for four classes.

This pass is good through this December. Classes are on Mondays, from 10 until 11:30 a.m., at the community center.

No previous yoga experience is necessary and modifications are made for your success in the class. Contact me at 203-249-8958, or email me at susancain9@gmail.com.

—Susan Cain

Town Yarners
Fiber Handwork Gatherings

The Monterey Community Center programming committee will host an ongoing handwork gathering for those who knit, crochet, etc., on the first Thursday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m., starting December 7 and January 4. There is no charge or registration needed. Bring your project, come to our beautiful community center, and enjoy friendship with fellow yarners. Contact me with questions.

—Wendy Jensen
413-528-4007

Made in Monterey
Artists' Holiday Sale

Saturday, December 2, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Monterey Community Center will host "Made in Monterey," a new event just in time for the holidays. This is a great opportunity to find unique, handmade gifts by Monterey artisans, and visit with friends, neighbors, and community center volunteers serving refreshments and helping with the holiday gift sales.

Featuring works from nine well-known Monterey artists and an artisan baker—all under one roof—for your shopping enjoyment.

Enjoy the beautiful and functional hand-forged ironwork from the Knox Trail Forge's blacksmith **Del Martin**, including decorative bowls, bottle openers and corkscrews, candlesticks, implement hooks, kitchen and hunting knives.

Fabric artist **Sue Cain** has a fascinating technique for making decorative pillows by layering and ripping cloth one on top of another using different hues and colors. Along with the pillows, Sue will be selling quilted wall hangings of her own designs.

Stunning silver cloisonné pendants and silver earrings from award-winning silversmiths **Maureen** and **Michael Banner** make extraordinary gifts. Michael and Maureen say they are officially retired, but for this special event, these renowned artists—with pieces in major museums and a dedicated following of customers—have pulled some beautiful pieces from their workshop to sell.

There will be handwoven baskets of rattan and homegrown willow from **Wendy Jensen**. Wendy carefully weaves baskets without the use of molds, and much of her work contains dyed rattan to accentuate the weaving patterns and shapes. Her sturdy willow baskets are similar to working baskets traditionally used in farming communities throughout much of Europe. Woven wheat ornaments will be available as well.

Painter **Joe Baker**, a man of many talents, and a versatile artist, told us that he will have several small paintings of oil, acrylic, and pastels, along with note cards of some of his pastel works at this event.

Artist **Julie Shapiro**, a well-received artist whose work has been shown throughout the country, and who helps manage the Knox Gallery at the Monterey Library, will have some of her smaller pieces, color-oriented abstraction, prints, work on paper, and small oil paintings.

Painter **Christine Brunoski Goldfinger** has been painting most of her life, on-and-off as life allows. However, creating art is at her core, as she puts it. Chris's oil paintings, with the distinctive tonalism style, will be offered at the December event. (An example of her work is in the background of the ad for this event, on page 9.)

Painter **Ron Goldfinger**, when asked to describe his work, says, "I consider myself to be a still-life artist, painting in oils, in the chiaroscuro tradition. In addition, I have a love for *plein air* landscape painting which has been occupying a good deal of my attention lately."

Hanna Jensen, The Sweetish Baker, will bring her baked goods, which were a hit at the Monterey Farmer's Market. On the menu will be raspberry almond rugelach (pictured above), holiday cookies, and muffins. She will also have assorted pies, galettes, and granola. All are great to bring to holiday parties or just consume at will.

Potter **Ellen Grendadier** says that, "Walking and hiking around Monterey inspires me." Picking up leaves and ferns as she goes along, Ellen ultimately incorporates them into her stunning stoneware. The many glazing techniques with organic oxides are mixed by hand adding depth and natural beauty to each unique piece. Ellen will have plates, bowls, and mugs for sale.

We hope that folks will be pleased with this opportunity to enjoy community while looking at some of the varied work produced right here.

—Wendy Germain
(Photos supplied by artists)

Below is a list of artists' websites:
- Bakerworks.com
- MMBanner.com
- Christine.Goldfinger (on Facebook)
- RonaldGoldfinger.com
- GrenadierPottery.com
- WendyGJensenBaskets.com
- KnoxTrailForge.com
- JulieShapiroArt.com
- TheSweetishBaker (on Facebook)

ॐ

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From top left, clockwise:
Maureen Banner's cloisonné enameled pendant
Ellen Grenadier's willow canisters
Julie Shapiro's fine art
Wendy Jensen's Williamsburg basket
Del Martin's forged and hammered bowl.

CHARLES J. FERRIS
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Curtis Road Bridge

Last month I asked Shawn Tryon, Monterey's Director of Operations, what were the concerns about the Curtis Road bridge. The state has adjusted the load limit. The select board is looking for engineering and costs for a replacement and wondering how to pay for it.

Tryon said that there is some question as to the actual year that this bridge was constructed, but thinks it was about 1955, making this a sixty-two year old bridge. Many of these deck and steel girder bridges have a rated life of fifty years.

Tryon suggested I go take a look at it. These photos, and the one on page 1, are what I saw.

— Stephen Moore

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In Remembrance
Jane Black

Jane Michaux York Black, 85, of Houston, Texas and Monterey, Massachusetts, died peacefully in her sleep at her mountain cabin on the summer solstice, June 21, in Ruidoso, New Mexico. Her death followed a long and difficult struggle with Alzheimer's.

Jane was the younger of two daughters born to John Barry York and Alice Michaux York in Houston on July 7, 1932. She graduated from Lamar High School and The University of Texas at Austin. She married John Raymond Black in 1954, and together they had six daughters. In 1968 Jane earned a teaching certificate from the University of Houston and after her divorce taught English for twenty-six years at Memorial High School in Houston while raising her daughters as a single mother.

Jane connected naturally with teenagers. She was a strict, fun, enthusiastic teacher, and a favorite among her students, many of whom became life-long friends. She always advocated for the teaching profession, was president of her local union for a time, and received a "Most Influential Teacher" award from Stanford University at the recommendation of a top graduate and former student.

After retirement in 1994, Jane relocated to the Berkshires where two of her daughters had moved before her, and soon decided on Monterey as the place to settle down. She made dear friends in Monterey, all of whom she admired and spoke fondly of until Alzheimer's began to erase those memories.

Jane—pretty, fun, a twinkle in her eye—loved people. "The mountains," which is what she called the family cabin in Ruidoso, NM, was her place of respite always. In later years she always had her nose in a good novel no matter what else was going on, until her disease robbed her of that pleasure too. She used to say she didn't know what she'd do without books, and the last one she re-read, or tried to re-read, was *Anna Karenina*, given to her by her Russian caregiver.

Jane's own difficulties softened her to the hardships of others. She detested all forms of social pretense, prejudice, and hypocrisy, and her natural sympathies tended to run with the social outcast and underdog.

A political science major in college, she enthusiastically followed politics, and, despite her politically conservative milieu growing up, was a lifelong liberal Democrat. Though she was a Southerner through and through, she had admired New England from afar for years, along with writers E.B. White and Robert Frost, and it is no coincidence that she spent so much time nestled into this little New England town.

Jane was preceded in death by her daughter Patricia, 35, from lung cancer, in 1996; by her sister Alice Staub, also from lung cancer in 2005; by her ex-husband Raymond in 2005; and by her daughter Alice, 55, in 2013. She is survived by her daughters Cynthia Black, Maria Black, Andrea Black, and Barrie Reinders, and by eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Jane is also survived by her dear and loyal friend, David Logan of Monterey, Massachusetts.

A memorial service was held October 14 in Lenox. The family is deeply grateful to Encompass Hospice Care of Ruidoso for their care and support, and to Rich Hayes, chaplain for Hospice of the Berkshires, who officiated at the memorial service in Lenox.

—Maria Black
Lenox, MA

In Rememberance
Ted Warner

Theodore "Ted" E. Warner, 78, of Monterey, MA, died Saturday October 21, at Fairview Commons, Great Barrington. He was born in Great Barrington on August 22, 1939, to Kenneth A. and Ethel E. Hart Warner. He was a local woodsman. Ted is survived by children, Michael and Diane Korn, his siblings John Warner and Nancy Dean, and three grandchildren. Ted was also predeceased by his son, Theodore "Teddy" Warner Jr.

A gathering of family and friends to share memories and stories was held on October 29 at the home of Ron and Veronica Yaple in Sheffield.

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Monterey Police Report
Late September to Mid-October

Alarms

There were five security alarm calls. An officer checked the perimeter of the homes. In one case, a cleaning crew had entered an incorrect code. In another instance, the officer found a door that had blown open and was unable to secure it. Aside from these, nothing was found to be amiss.

There was one fire alarm call. An officer reported no evidence of fire showing. The Monterey Fire Department cleared the building as the alarm was still sounding. The owners were going to have the fire alarm reset.

Alarming

In early October residents in the village area heard a single, very loud bang. An officer checked the area, which had been reported to be in the area of Main Road and Eaton Road, and found nothing unusual.

Questionable Cars

In late September there was a call concerning an abandoned vehicle on private property. The home owner stated the vehicle was parked in front of her barn for most of the day. The officer had dispatch run the plate and then did an area search and located the operator on Chestnut Hill Road. She stated she was out for a hike for the day and was on her way back to the vehicle.

Another report came in of a suspicious vehicle on the wrong side of Tyringham Road. The officer found a vehicle that had broken an axle coming up the hill near the Tyringham town line. In an attempt to get the vehicle off the road, the driver had let the vehicle roll backwards, but it rolled into the opposite lane. A wrecker was called and the vehicle was towed.

There was one report of a vehicle with an expired inspection sticker. The driver was cited and the vehicle was towed.

Questioned Car Drivers

While monitoring traffic on Main Road, an officer observed a vehicle cross the center lane several times. The driver was stopped and arrested for operating under the influence of alcohol.

An officer observed a car roll through the stop sign at Main Road and Pixley Road. He talked with the party and found she had worked a twelve-hour day and was tired. He noticed her engine was smoking. Checking the engine, he found the radiator was empty as well as the overflow resevoir. He filled the radiator and the overflow with water and antifreeze, which she had with her, and sent her along to her home.

At the intersection of Blue Hill Road and Main Road an officer observed a vehicle traveling without headlights or running lights, well after dark. The vehicle was stopped, and found that the driver's license from New York had been suspended. The operator was charged.

A vehicle was stopped in the area of Main Road and River Road for speeding. The operator's license was suspended so he was charged and his vehicle towed.

Mammals in Distress

An officer responded to Gould Road for a party having a panic attack. The officer arrived and helped the party stay calm until the fire department rescue squad arrived. The person was transported to the hospital.

Speaking of hiking, an officer responded to a report of a person lying on the ground in the area of Blue Hill Road and Old Beartown Mt. Road. The officer looked for the person for approximately half an hour before finding him. He said that he had walked from Pittsfield, because he could not get a ride. He was laying down because his legs were tired. The officer gave him a ride the rest of the way to his home on Main Road.

There was a report of a horse in the road on Tyringham Road. An officer located the owner and advised her of the situation. The degree of distress on the part of the horse is unreported.

An officer responded to a report of a verbal altercation (a.k.a. yelling), at a residence on Beartown Mountain Road. On arrival the officer found the complaining party had left.

Call 528-3211 to reach the police department for non-emergencies.

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The Pastor's Pastorale

Or were there time enough
to sleep and dream
and mull the mind
on things as they might seem
        but, no
          we plod
          (and stumble on our guilts)
          God.
How simple then to walk the night
and touch the stars or taste the dew,
smile at such gifts
and count ourselves among the few
        who yes
          who pray
          yet kiss
and sing to others what they miss:
                It's this! It's This!

—A. O. Howell

Marriage

She's up an hour before the sun.
When I come stumbling down she's bright
with coffee and a few chores done.
I mumble, "Morning," and for spite
pretend to merely be polite
while she talks on. Like the dock
I watched as a child from a skiff
that drifted with each wavelet's knock
and would have smalled to nothing if
the dripping line had not gone stiff.

—Don Barkin

To A Graduate

What advice can I give?
I've never learned the way to live,
while the world still performs for you.
It's May and all your days dawn blue.
At noon you stretch to heaven in
the streaming water of your skin.

When I was young I was scared
and hid myself behind a beard.
I kissed no girls and wasn't kissed.
Those years have lifted like a mist
to leave me standing in the clear
with my wife and daughter near.

Clever heads will tell you how.
But was I dreaming then or now?

—Don Barkin

Don Barkin's poems are from his collection,
That Dark Lake, published by Amtrim House, ©2009.

Bird Flocking Nomenclature

There is an interesting descriptive list of names or collective nouns for when a flock of birds consists of a single species. These terms stem from the birds' appearance or behavior by applying our language of human behaviors. For example, an angry flock of crows is called a *murder*, describing them loudly ganging up to bully or scare a skulking owl or fox secretly lurking as a threat to one of their kind. Many birds, like the crow, also share some collective nouns with other species such as *murder* being applied to a flock of ravens, or the *congress* applying to both, as they similarly assemble like *legislators* to chew the fat and agreeably reach a common consensus of topics for discussion.

At my new residence, with a waterside window on Buzzards Bay for watching the sea, some ten or more species of gulls share at least four applicable descriptive terms. Flocks may be described as a *flotilla,* a *colony,* a *scavenge,* and a *squabble*. The last came into view when watching the largest of the Herring Gulls that almost daily conduct aerial patrols to scour the seaside shallows for hard shell clams. They swoop down to grab them, fly up with the clams to drop them over a prominent rock outcropping nearby, hoping to break them open. Then a squabble forms as the gull drops down to jealously claim the prize and fend off others from his shattered dish of sushi.

Late one evening, another more spectacular example of the term *colony* unexpectedly materialized over our heads, with a colony of Black-headed Gulls. There were suddenly huge numbers, as far as the eye could see, high and low, near and far, stretching to the horizon, with no end in sight. The tide was coming in, pulled by a rising full moon over the distant Mattapoisett Wildlife Preserve peninsula, and a dense low-lying fog of cold air over warm water was moving in from the outer reaches of the bay. As there were a few other species of gulls in sight, this gathering did not seem to be a seasonal migration, but such a multitude required accolades and some explanation.

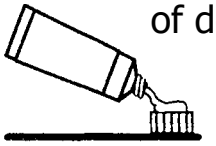
The next day more research revealed that it is called a *kettle*, to apply another term used during migrations, when Black-headed Gulls mix with other species. A kettle is a static soaring formation of birds rising up on deflected air currents and up-drafts, often seen during the autumn migrations of hawks, eagles, and vultures. The natural history of Black-headed Gulls tells of them establishing breeding colonies in Newfoundland in mid-twentieth century from Europe where they were equally at home in freshwater ponds, lakes, and rivers. This may help explain reports of migrations frequently moving inland, especially when darkness and fog have visibly separated them from their habitat access for perching and scavenging.

When I retired to Monterey after a business career in New York City, I was fortunate to make new friends with other wildlife writers, artists, and readers of the *News*. Once again I am deeply grateful that this relationship has so richly continued. Thank you for your interest in my recent adventure of environmental awareness in an expanded amphitheater of coastal bird behavior. —George B. Emmons

If this sampling of the names of bird flocks is of interest, search for "avian collective nouns" and you'll find you're not alone.

DR. JERROLD RAAB
Dentist

All phases
of dentistry



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From the Meetinghouse
Navigating November

What's Tally up to, hiding behind my clothes? She's probably not planning to do my laundry. Could she be checking the back closet wall, hoping it's something like the wardrobe C. S. Lewis described in his classic *Narnia* series? Or like the train station wall between Muggleworld and Hogwarts?

According to old Irish folklore, early November is the time of year when the veil is most thin. The 'veil' this refers to is the flexible wall separating what we know from what we don't. It's the thin red line between visible and hidden realities—between fact and fantasy—between well-placed faith and the outer reaches of psychology. And it's not only the ancient Irish who recognize this thinness most apparent right now.

Some folks, myself among them, straddle this thin line by choice, one foot in the world we share, and the other in non-ordinary reality. It's home to eccentrics, creative artists, madmen, geniuses, and the homeless; to mystics, prophets, shamans, saints, and seers; and to three-year olds, as well as hundred-and-three year olds. It can open to paradise, or to hell. Safe passage isn't guaranteed.

At its healthiest and most productive, non-ordinary reality is a place of pilgrimage, a part of the inner landscape to travel into only after training, and with trustworthy guides. Like hiking in a desert, it has its rules of conduct; safe passage requires courage, and caution. Those of us who go there voluntarily hope to walk this line with the grace shown by some well-known fictional characters.

Who are these characters? Young people who volunteer for, or find themselves thrust into, navigating non-ordinary, life-threatening, challenges. Some of the elders among us—anyone who was already out of school when first introduced to Harry Potter and Hogwarts—will think of Meg Murry, primary character in Madeleine L'Engle's classics, *A Wrinkle in Time*, *A Wind at the Door*, and *A Swiftly Tilting Planet*. For others, it's Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie, who carry the plot lines of C. S. Lewis' *Narnia* series from beginning to end.

Mary Kate Jordan

Tally's cozy in the closet, investigating what she knows and what she doesn't know.

Why model my adult behavior on fictional characters in these young adult novels? For one thing, why let young folks be the only ones smart enough to recognize the wisdom in them? These characters go deep under the surface of things, differently than is usual in mainstream-character behavior. Yes, these books require a suspension of disbelief in non-ordinary reality. But then, so do love, and music. So do friends, and family. So does early November, when the veil is so thin.

Tally seems to understand all this, without the heady parts, without the overthinking, without all these words. She hasn't read L'Engle, Lewis, or Rowling, but she's still eager to find out what's behind the veil. She's playful, curious, determined, flexible.

Images of Our World

Sally Eagle and Dan Mead

through December 2

KNOX GALLERY
Monterey Library

Knox Gallery supported by Friends of the Monterey Library
Artist Talks sponsored by MA and Monterey Cultural Councils

Those sound like good skills for any of us to have when summer's gone, and fall has faded. We may never need to balance on the thin, white rim of a laundry basket, as Tally does so effortlessly. But being playful, curious, determined, and flexible, are skills we all brought to kindergarten, to one degree or another. Maybe this November's the time to reach through that veil, bring them back up, and polish them for use as we navigate the winter.

—Mary Kate Jordan

ॐ

The Holidays are upon us...

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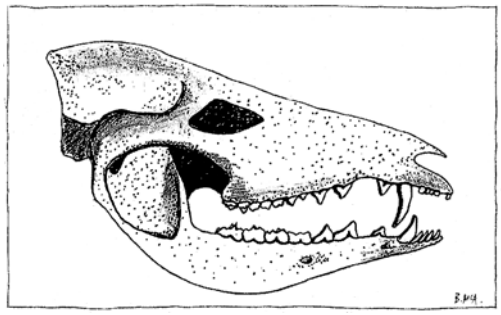
Playing Possum
Fight, Flight, or Freeze

Some dead possums are not really dead, so if you find one, do not bury it. It may come to and be unable to escape the hole it's in, or the trash can, or wherever it has been tossed. Possums are not the only creatures who slip into tonic immobility or thanatosis when frightened. Other animals like turkey vultures, hog-nosed snakes, and some fish will faint "dead away" when threatened or traumatized. Even people, we now learn, sometimes just freeze. In fact, it comes out now thanks to brave women speaking up, that when a powerful adversary threatens assault and rape, a person can become immobilized. Fight and flight are not options. Who can forget the awful advice once given to women? If being raped, just lie back and enjoy it. Where did this come from, *Playboy Magazine*? It was said with a laugh, as I recall.

These women coming forward were not making a conscious decision to enjoy or to allow assault. Their brains had put them into the freeze response which is no more helpful to their situations than it is to the possum in the road when the car is bearing down.

Sometimes we hear that if a bear attacks we'd do best to hold still, curl in a ball on the ground. Sometimes we hear we should put a kid on our shoulders, hold out our arms, and look very big. Make big noises. Always we hear there is no point in running, the flight response, but it can work to whack the bear on the snout with a backpack or something. I've read accounts of a big grizzly in a charge, a person holding still, and the charge screeching to a halt or veering away. The more you look at it the harder it is to gather all the variables in the story and make a plan or give advice. Maybe if we get to speak to a possum, we can suggest staying off the road, always.



This possum has travelled on, leaving a perfect skull with fifty teeth. This is many, many more than any of our other land mammals.

When a possum plays dead, I have read, it falls down on one side, sometimes with the front feet balled up. The mouth hangs open, saliva may run out, and a gland under the tail emits a smell that is much like that of a long-dead animal. Here is an account from the *New Nature Library of 1922*. Authors Witmar Stow and William Everett Cram write: "Nature most effectually assists the possum in making the ruse successful, as anyone who has ever seen it is bound to admit, for the long lean dull white jaws and black withered ears and skinny tail bear in themselves the very semblance of death. And when the possum plays possum he invariably draws back the gums (sic) from the glittering white teeth until he looks as though he might have been dead for a month; especially as his fur has at all times the faded, colorless look and loose wind-blown texture of hair that has been exposed to wind and weather for an entire season."

What this tells us is that these are sensational writers making a case. Yesterday I found a possum dead on the road, genuinely dead as far as I could tell, thanks to heavy physical damage. I found him a thing of great beauty, including his white and grey coat, the remarkable curled tail, and the unusual feet—all four of which reminded me of my own five-fingered hands. His hind feet, though they clearly can grab and hold, have an odd thumb with no nail or claw, just a strong stub. I have seen the five-toed tracks of possums in the winter, most striking and characteristic. There is no other mammal out in our woods with feet like these.

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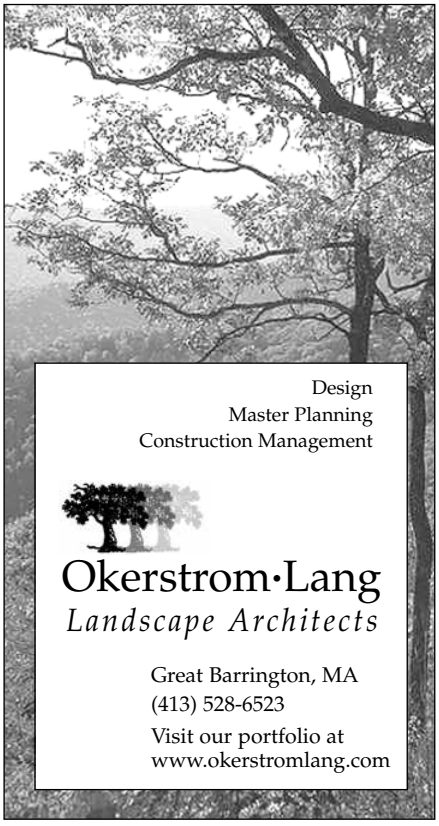

Possums are unique among our North American mammals in that they are not placental, but marsupial. The babies are born only twelve days after conception and are the size of honeybees. There may be sixteen of them, and all these could be fit together into a teaspoon. At this undeveloped stage, they emerge from the cloaca with no eyes or ears and with transparent skin and only nubs for hind legs. They crawl and pull themselves through the jungle of the mother's fur until they reach her pouch. They work their way inside and find as many as seventeen or more nipples in there, each the diameter of a pin. Once inside the baby's mouth, the nipple swells and fills its throat. Meanwhile, the baby's throat has developed to protect it from drowning as the mother begins pumping milk. Her mammaries are equipped with muscles for this. The babies are too undeveloped to do their own sucking. Once the nipples are elongated and swollen, the babies cannot be dislodged. After six weeks, little possums have a kind of second birth and can emerge from the pouch. They often ride on the mother's back, even when she is climbing trees, where she hunts for food. She can hang by her strong tail to reach into a bird's nest on a lower branch.

All this you can think about when you examine a possum, either dead or playing dead. Then take her off the road and put her in the shade. She may come to in a few minutes and resume life as a possum. Or she may have breathed her last out on the highway and be headed for transformation. Remember the word thanatosis? It means playing dead, or apparent death. It reminds me of that famous poem by William Cullen Bryant, "Thanatopsis." This is still about *thanos*, or death, but in the poem it is about death in nature, considering death. I would say it is also about death as nature, which is to say, "In my beginning is my end" (T. S. Eliot), and "In my end is my beginning." Mary Queen of Scots is said to have embroidered this just before meeting her death. Whether you are poet, queen, or possum, you will come round again to new beginnings, but you should still stay off the highway.

—Bonner McAllester

ॐ

Who's Who
Fiona DeRis

You may have seen or met Fiona at the Roadside Café, Gould Farm, or working in her beautiful gardens right here in Monterey. We decided on dinner at Fiona's to conduct the interview. Fiona set the time early enough so we would have daylight to walk around her lovely gardens.

Walking into Fiona's home, I was immediately greeted by Quinn, the sweet family dog, and a savory smell coming from the kitchen. The house felt very much like home with family photos, paintings, and musical instruments scattered about.

Fiona and her husband Don Mikkelsen, an accomplished trombone player who plays with The Lucky Five Band, married and bought their house in 2012. Built in 1883, the original Victorian house abutted a dirt road, now known as Route 23, at the corner with Corashire Road. A past owner moved the house a good distance back from the road, and now the house sits in its second location, looking as grand as ever.

We sat at the kitchen table to a plate of tortillas filled with summer squash and fresh salsa from the garden, red wine, and started the interview. Since neither of us had ever been in an interviewer/interviewee situation, we both decided it would be best to start at the beginning.

Fiona was born in a small village of Schloss Hamborn in Germany. Her mother is German and her father is from New Jersey. Her parents met in Germany while both studying the Rudolph Steiner method of teaching.

When Fiona was one year old, her parents moved to the United States and settled in the Berkshires. They moved to South Egremont to a house and on land owned by Fiona's father's family. Part of the two hundred acres of the land that Fiona grew up on was turned into the Community Land Trust, a land use model based on shared resources, and the home of the Schumacher Center for a New Economics. The remaining property rests with the Nature Conservancy, protected from further development.

Fiona's parents still reside in the old house, an A-frame with a pentagonal tower built by her father in the early seventies.

Wendy Benjamin

Above- Fiona and her daughter Iolani. "Monterey is a place that I embrace," Fiona said with her charming smile, and added, "I am grateful to have found Monterey. Monterey is a place I call home."

Both parents taught at the Rudolph Steiner School in Great Barrington for many years. Fiona went to school there from kindergarten through eighth grade. She strongly believes that her years spent at Steiner developed her appreciation and love for nature, her unyielding desire to help and support those in need, and her deep sense of empathy for all people. >

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Who's Who-Fiona DeRis, cont.

Fiona has always had a strong sense of independence— after eighth grade, Fiona ventured to Germany for high school in the Steiner curriculum and lived with her maternal grandmother. Fiona's German was rudimentary but that wasn't going to stop this determined young lady. She became acquainted with her European roots but decided that wasn't home. Having extended her horizons in search of adventure, Fiona returned to the US and the Berkshires in 1989 to start a family.

With her baby son Tobias, and her desire to be engaged in meaningful work, she embarked on a new beginning.

In 1992, Fiona started working at Camphill Village, in Copake, NY, an intentional community that meets the needs of children and adults with developmental disabilities. Camphill is inspired by Rudolf Steiner's philosophy based on the belief that every human being is capable of living a full life when their true purpose can be identified and nurtured by integrating the arts, community life, and work on the land. Fiona studied social therapy for four years, earning a social therapist certificate from the international Camphill Association.

While working at Camphill, Fiona met and married the father of her two daughters, Iolani and Mareika. Fiona says that working at Camphill as a house parent for seven years was deeply satisfying and the idyllic atmosphere was a great place for raising her children.

In 1999, Fiona and her family moved to Great Barrington to continue their work in an atmosphere more integrated with the wider community. They joined the Cadmus Life Sharing group and established their own nonprofit, Magnolia House. The organization provides group homes for people with developmental challenges. Fiona and her husband were house parents.

For Fiona, being a house parent for people with disabilities and the values she learned from the Rudolph Steiner schooling felt like a perfect fit.

I'm sure that her training in social therapy enriched the people she worked with and I would take a guess that Fiona was also enriched by the people who lived in her house. In 2004, her marriage ended in divorce.

As a single mom with three kids, and unemployed, Fiona knew it was time for a new beginning. I asked Fiona about this difficult time in her life. She shared that she has learned two very important things in life. The first, she said, is that, "My life has always been filled with different journeys, some good, some not so good. But, I have persevered because I am able to push through and get to the other side of whatever is happening at the time." She added that, "I value change, it gives me an opportunity to reflect on the past and helps me create a new path." And that's exactly what she did.

In 2004 Fiona bought a house in Hartsville, a neighboring village, and launched a successful catering business.,S.O.L. Kitchen Catering, which afforded Fiona an opportunity to provide sustainable foods in creative ways.

After six years running S.O.L., something amazing happened. In Yiddish you would say *bashert*, something that was meant to be. Gould Farm offered Fiona a job to revise the Roadside Café. This work opportunity provided Fiona a chance to combine her love of cooking and her experience working with people in need. Gould Farm is the first residential therapeutic community in the nation dedicated to helping adults with mental health challenges move toward recovery, health, and greater independence through community living, meaningful work, and clinical care.

The Roadside Café is an essential part of the culture of the farm. The Roadside offers the guests meaningful work, which in turn helps the guests to become more independent and work towards recovery. Fiona's presence is felt throughout the café. You'll find her coaching the guests and volunteers, manning the grill, prepping food, and welcoming the hungry locals and visitors. Fiona has worked for Gould Farm for seven years now and at this time in her life she feels it is time to move on. Fiona writes about the farm, "The people who make the farm happen are uniquely proficient and yet the transcendent criteria for anyone to be a part of the community is the willingness to be human."

Fiona says she will hand over the torch to a person that believes in being part of the community and has that willingness to be human.

I should also mention that she has helped support her Monterey community as a member of the cultural council. She will finish serving the second of her three-year terms, which is as long as the state permits, this January.

What will Fiona do next? As she reflects, she says that she hopes deeply to find new ways of enlivening communities near (and far). Her passion for vibrant food that brings people together, socially, economically, will be a guiding light, yet at this moment the next step is not clear.

But one thing is for sure, Fiona is preparing to move on and her new path will be found.

—Wendy Benjamin

Writing a column for any type of publication is a first for me—so, needless to say, I was both excited and a bit nervous about my interview with Fiona. Thank you Fiona!

ॐ

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Fiber Connect's Open Meeting
Q & A with Adam Chait

Editor's Note: Much of this report contains information that may be useful for anyone interested in understanding what a fiber optic network offers, how it functions, and the process of building a network in Monterey. It is not the intent for this to be a promotion for Fiber Connect.

Stephen Moore

The town beach shortly before the drawdown began in mid-October. It's quieter now.

On Saturday, October 7, Adam Chait, managing partner of Berkshire Fiber Connect, met with interested residents who had questions about Fiber Connect's efforts to build a broadband network in Monterey. About forty people showed up, including many folks from Egremont, where Fiber Connect is also working to install a network.

This was only a couple of days after the news came out that Charter Spectrum indicated that they would be willing to do a full fiber optic network in Monterey, after having only proposed a hybrid system of fiber optic to coaxial cable several times, which the town had repeatedly rebuffed. So there were a number of questions concerning Charter, but Chait was in no position to comment on Charter's plans. (See the broadband committee report on page 5.)

Chait began at the top of his agenda. The first topic he discussed was the ability to receive a wide range of content over broadband, especially over the high-speed network they are constructing. There is a huge amount of content out there from a wide variety of sources, including individual websites, aggregating websites (like YouTube), and bundled content providers—much the same as the bundles of channels offered with traditional cable service. He wanted people to understand that typical television station packages are very available through "over the top" streaming. You may have to subscribe to a service like "Direct TV NOW" to receive this content over the internet, but it can be streamed very well. In fact, as a demonstration, he was simultaneously showing content on two flatscreen monitors in both HD TV and in the newer high resolution standard, 4K, off of one network connection.

But his agenda was soon subverted by eager questions. Karen Shreefter, apologizing for the fact that she couldn't stay very long, wanted to hear why someone should choose Fiber Connect over Charter. This question, in a variety of forms, kept coming up. Chait stressed that he has lived in Monterey for over twenty years, and his only objective is to make sure that Monterey has the best customer experience available, and he doesn't want to sacrifice speed by over-subscribing the network. He explained, somewhat after Karen had left, that, in simple terms, any network buys its connection to the internet by the capacity of the "pipe." The size of the "pipe" is not based on a simple equation of how many homes multiplied by how much promised capacity, but on the actual usage. He pointed out that no one at the meeting was currently using bandwidth, which is a measure of how much of the "pipe" is being used at a given time, while others at home or work may be using the network. Larger system operators might calculate that they could comfortably assign two hundred or three hundred subscribers to a one gigabyte pipe, knowing that only a portion of those subscribers are using the system at any one time. The danger is that when the number of simultaneous online users rises, the pipe will not be large enough to accommodate everyone's demand, and the system will bog down with slower speeds.

Fiber Connect's objective is to not "pack the pipe" with too many subscribers, to >

Fiber Connect Open Meeting, cont.

assure that the system is not overloaded. He said that the company would prefer to move to a larger "pipe" to avoid this. Balancing the size of the "pipe" would be based on close monitoring of the dynamic usage over time, which would allow it to stay well ahead of the demand.

Ruth Green asked about the terms of service. Chait said that subscribers would be required to sign a thirty-six month agreement for service, currently priced at $99 per month. The nonpromotional setup fee would typically be $999, which would cover bringing fiber optic cable inside the home, and installing a fiber router that would both function as a modem (to provide the connection between customer devices and the internet) and a WiFi access point. This device also has ports for directly connecting with Ethernet cables, which he pointed out, is always the best bet for consistently very high speed access. He clarified that the connection fee is based on whether there is a usable path for bringing the cable from the street to inside the home—for example, if lines currently reach a residence via overhead poles, or through buried conduit. If, however, the home has a directly buried cable (not in conduit), or requires some other path, then Fiber Connect would provide a quote for the additional cost of bringing the cable in.

After the thirty-six month agreement period had passed, service would be provided on a month-to-month basis, with rates adjusted as necessary, similar to how other services are billed. Phone lines over the internet will be available for $19 per month per line.

Another person inquired why such high speeds were necessary versus the standard services available elsewhere. Chait pointed out that the growth in bandwidth demand is rapid, and will continue to increase at exponential rates. This demand grows by a factor of four or five every few years. He pointed to the rapidly growing use of streamed videos embedded within websites (think about videos through news providers), within text and email services (think about videos of grandchildren), and complex graphics. As consumer devices can smoothly handle greater video and graphic content, more will be provided. In addition, in many homes there may be many devices operating concurrently.

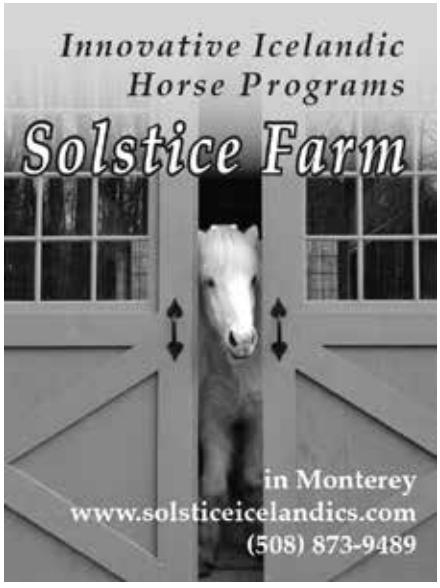
The good news is that fiber optic cabling will not likely ever be the choke point in a system. The capacity of fiber optic cables is enormous. What determines the capacity are the electronic components—the consumer devices and the network devices. He said Fiber Connect is already prepared and planning for 10Gbps technologies as soon as the demand is presented in the next few years.

Several people had questions about the planned phases of the network installation. Chait said that they had very nearly completed the first phase, and have approximately seventy homes "lit up." The first phase includes the central village section of Route 23, up Tyringham Road, parts of Hupi Road and much of the western portion of the homes around Lake Garfield. The second phase will cover Route 23 from the Monterey flats to the Great Barrington line, down Route 57 to Hartsville, as well as Griswold Road, the western portion of Mt. Hunger Road, and a few other smaller roads. The last phase will be the lower density areas that are more economically challenging for the company. Building out phase three would definitely be helped by receiving some assistance with the state grant funding that is earmarked for Monterey.

Building out the network involves many steps. The poles are owned by the utilities (Verizon and National Grid). Fiber Connect has to arrange to lease space on the poles to run their cable. A survey of the poles has to be made, and the pole owner must do any necessary work to make the poles ready (moving existing wires, replacing damaged or over-burdened poles, etc.). This process can take many months. Fiber Connect is currently working to get phase two prepared.

A last subject of conversation related to Fiber Connect's policies. The issues of privacy (the collection of user data, possibly for sale to advertisers) and net neutrality (no preferential treatment of any content providers, versus selling higher-speed access to major content providers and slower speeds to everyone else) are very different for a small network like Fiber Connect's. There just won't be enough subscribers on their network to interest marketers or large content providers. And as Chait made clear, Fiber Connect is focused on providing the best service it can to the customers and has no interest in any other concern.

—Stephen Moore



P.O. Box 9
Enough is enough!

First the disclaimers...while I am a member of the Monterey Broadband Committee, this letter represents my opinion and not that of the broadband committee. Second, I am not affiliated with or compensated by Charter, Frontier, or Fiber Connect.

"Enough is enough" refers to the absolute mess that is broadband deployment in western Massachusetts. While the issues are similar in adjacent and nearby towns, this letter is focused on the Town of Monterey and, more specifically, to the MBI's (Massachusetts Broadband Institute) control of grant monies designed to aid in the deployment of broadband services for the unserved towns in the region.

MBI has openly and clearly, through statements and actions, supported the allocation of grant monies to Charter Communications and/or Frontier Communications. They offer zero support for a local startup that is actually doing real work and accomplishing their goal of providing high speed broadband service to Monterey.

The Commonwealth, through MBI and other organizations, has built a "middle mile" costing the taxpayers, both federal and state, close to $85 million dollars. It is this system that brought a fiber optic connection into Monterey, to the fire house, town hall, and library. Fiber Connect, based in Monterey, is actually using the "middle mile" to connect residents via fiber-to-the-home. You would think that the Commonwealth's Economic Development Department would be supportive of a local innovative start-up that is *using its own money* to build a network for approximately 70% of the town. This is far from the case. MBI has decided that they will grant the monies to Fiber Connect for the remaining 30% of the build only after they have built the network out completely and shown sustained, profitable operations for two years after the build out, and then, 25% of that money has to go into escrow! On the other side of the coin, MBI already has cut deals with Frontier and Charter that will give them the full grant monies up front!

This doesn't seem to be a level playing field fostered by the economic growth office. The broadband committee asked MBI to re-assess Fiber Connect in light of the fact that their current operations have required zero Massachusetts tax dollars and their network makes use of the middle mile that we have paid for. While MBI met with us face to face, their requirements are like cement shoes to a start-up.

The lack of support from our elected delegation is tacit endorsement of MBI's actions and philosophy of wasting our money. We can appropriate dollars for a train study, but we can not seem to support the buildout of the necessary infrastructure to attract new residents and remove the penalty we are paying for lack of high speed internet and its effect on our housing values.

Some have said that competition for broadband services would be a good thing. I have nothing against competition if the playing field is level. In this case, it is tilted heavily against a local, well-funded start-up and in favor of companies that, a. are based out of state; b. are offering yesterday's services for tomorrow; c. are notorious for their customer service; and d. have business models that rely heavily on broadcast television—a rapidly decaying model that will guarantee subscription increases each and every year.

In summary, MBI and members of our elected legislative delegation, locally and at the regional level, are comfortable in fostering an uncompetitive climate, are ignoring the $85 million middle mile infrastructure, and are giving additional millions to out-of-state providers.

The real kicker is that in this environment, the start-up is delivering services today while Charter, a. has yet to respond to a meeting request with the Monterey Broadband Committee to review their latest proposal; b. has yet to begin any of the "make ready" work required; c. will not make use of the middle mile; and d. guaranteed in a previous meeting that their rates will increase every year. This makes their earliest foray into Monterey an additional twelve, eighteen, perhaps even twenty-four months out.

Contact your:

- Select board chair, steve@montereyma.gov, 413-528-1443 x114, and
- Representative Pignatelli, rep.smitty@mahouse.gov, 413-637-0631, and
- Senator Adam Hinds, adam.hinds@masenate.gov, (413)344-4561,

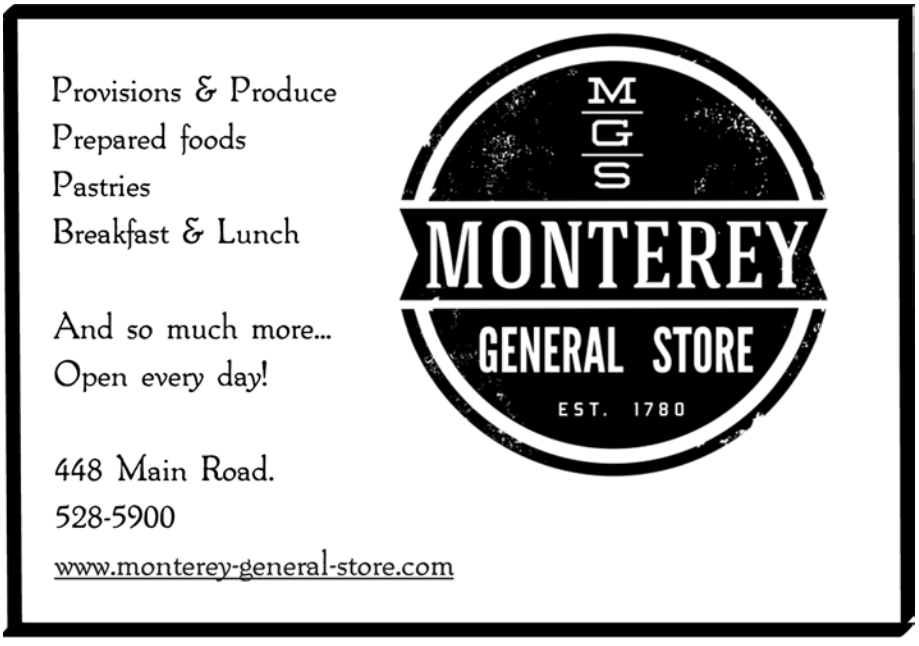
…and ask them to coherently explain their rationale for supporting MBI's non-competitive approach.

Please feel free to contact me directly for more information.

—Cliff Weiss, Cweiss27@gmail
Citizen and Voter

Having a Good Day

- First game of the world series is on, and you're suddenly free to watch it.
- The last of the leaves are finally off the trees, and you have a calm, blue-sky day to rake them up.



Wildlife Report

Late September to mid-October

This month we have accounts of dragonflies, ravens, a wildcat, a jumping coyote and more. Near the end of September, Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen went camping in Beartown and saw handsome red dragonflies in love in the "wheel position." They also got a good photo of a pickerel frog, which is much like a leopard frog but has square spots and is not so green. Those dragonflies are meadowhawks, and in most kinds of meadowhawks the males are red so most people just call all of them "red meadowhawks."

Wendy Jensen

The wildcat or bobcat was on Brett Road, spotted early in October by Mel and Lou-Ellen Barkan. They report this was a very large reddish-brown cat, about the size of their golden retriever. Later in the month, Michael and Maureen Banner watched a coyote in their yard enjoy many Seckel pears, while the dogs set off a hullabaloo inside the house. Unperturbed, the coyote jumped again and again to grab pears from the tree, and Maureen writes, "She took them to a hillside to eat them one at a time."

Maureen Banner

Steve Moore was on a morning walk along New Marlborough Road when he heard a strange sound ahead and over the pasturef that Bob Heath called 'No Name Hill.' It was a bird on the move and what came into sight was a raven, perhaps fifty to sixty feet away making this call. A mid-register click followed quickly by three descending notes, cluck-cluck-cluck, the last being pretty guttural. He stopped and it flew up into a maple (a favorite perch for the red-tails). It was maybe seventy yards off, now. He watched it continue with that series of sounds and he could see it dipping its head and lifting its wings each time. Then it took off, flew just in front of him, wheeled, and flew practically right overhead and then away down the field along in front of Mike O'Connor's and into the woods. And even after it had disappeared from view, and that's a pretty fair distance from the road, he could still hear it clucking away.

He added that he got a very good look at the beak, which helped him know this was a raven, not a crow.

We had a couple of crows here recently, in the air "mobbing" a small hawk, which was either a Cooper's hawk or a sharp-shinned hawk. The crows were noisy, the hawk was leaving.

Early in October, a peregrine falcon stood in the road as Peter Murkett was driving along. This was New Marlborough Road, and the falcon had a large animal of some kind clutched in its left foot. Peter passed, stopped to take photos, and the bird hopped a few steps, still hanging onto its meal. Peter says this was a bird of some kind. Finally, the falcon lifted off and flew low around the corner, getting quickly out of sight. In the background, crows were carrying on, but not visible.

Maureen Banner

A splendid paper nest made by bald-faced hornets also called white-faced hornets or bull wasps.

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The Stucker Report

"Maddox and Tiegen are happy to report that they saw a rabbit hopping through the bushes at their Forest Edge home, as well as a deer running through the woods. As they were walking along Blue Hill Road, they spotted a porcupine and tried to shoo it away to protect it from oncoming cars. They saw a red-tailed hawk flying high over Brett Road and some twenty turkeys in a field off of Stony Brook Road. Along Wellman Road on Gould Farm, they saw a garter snake that struck out at their stick as they encouraged it into the undergrowth. At Bartholomew's Cobble in Sheffield, they saw a second garter snake and a second red-tailed hawk, this time being pursued by three Cooper's hawks."

Many thanks to all the spotters around town. Send me your wild news!

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 bonnermca@gmail.com

Bonsai Cox

Cattails, or bulrushes. They have been a significant source of food, weaving material, stuffing, and insulation for cultures throughout North America.

Wendy Jensen

Steve and Wendy also had a big yellow and black garden spider at their place and watched it wrap up a Japanese beetle.

Wendy Jensen

Pickerel frog

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Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

www.MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Mondays, November 6 and 20, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Chair Yoga: at the community center: Tuesdays, 9 to 10 a.m.

Conservation Commission: NEW DAY: Wednesday, November 8, at 6 p.m.

Council on Aging: Mondays, November 13 and 27, at 10 a.m., at town hall.

Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, November 9, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.

Foot Nurse: Thursday, November 9, 9 to 11:30 a.m., by appointment (please call 528-1443 x247). All ages are welcome.

Parks Commission: Wednesday, November 1, at 6 p.m.

Planning Board: Thursday, November 9, at 7 p.m. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-9685 to be placed on the agenda.

Select Board: Wednesdays, November 1, 8, 15, and 22, at 9 a.m., and November 29, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

The Administrative Assistant's Office will be closed to attend offsite training on November 17.

Town hall will be closed Thursday, November 23 for Thanksgiving.

Other News

The month of November is a time for giving thanks. We'd like to give thanks to you, the townspeople, for putting your trust in us as a board to make hard decisions while representing the best interests of the town.

Over the last few months we have been working closely with all the departments in town hall, including the highway and fire departments. We have been coordinating efforts with our new financial firm, Baystate Municipal Accounting, to get our books in better order and prepare for the library bond. Together, the police chief, town clerk, administrative assistant, director of operations, and other staff have worked diligently to create a friendly team approach to handling the day-to-day issues that arise in town hall. Because of this improved way of interacting, we are getting ahead of issues before they arise, before they have a chance to grow into larger problems. We look to Monterey's future with optimism and enthusiasm.

We sincerely thank all the town employees, boards, and committee members, paid or volunteer, who help keep the town running efficiently and smoothly. We thank the residents for all your great ideas, feedback, and continued dedication to making Monterey the best small town in Massachusetts. Have a Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

—Steve Weisz, Chair
Carol Edelman and Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board
(steve@montereyma.gov)
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)

For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov.

Town Contact Information Emergency! 911

Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)

Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov

Building Department: 528-1443 x118
buildingsafety@montereyma.gov

Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org

Fire Department (non-emergency):
528-3136
chief@montereyma.gov

Highway Department.: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov

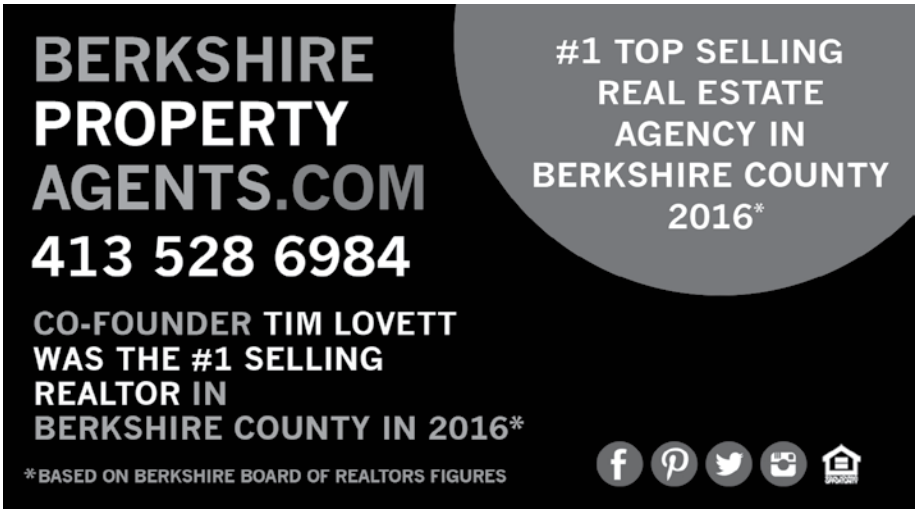
Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com

Police Department (non-emergency):
528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov

Post Office: 528-4670

Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)

Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov



Calendar

Through December 2: Knox Gallery, *Images of our World.* See page 4.

Every Tuesday:

Chair Yoga with Connie Wilson, 9 to 10 a.m., community center. Free, sponsored by Monterey Parks Commission.

Cards and Games, 12:30 p.m., community center. Sponsored by the council on aging.

Every Thursday: Women Talk, 1 p.m., community center.

Every Friday: Matter of Balance program, 1 p.m., call to register. See page 6.

Sunday, November 5: Wake up confused by the hour, unless you set your clocks back one hour the night before. Winter transfer station hours take effect, Sundays 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Saturday, November 11: Armistice Day/ Veterans Day. 9:30 veterans breakfast, 10:30 Veterans Day observation, at the library. See page 6.

Sunday, November 12: Ornament wheat weaving workshop, community center, 1 to 4 p.m. See page 8.

Monday, November 13: Lake Garfield Working Group, 7 p.m., at town hall. See page 3.

Tuesday, November 14: Monument Mountain High School's Fall Festival for Seniors. 11 a.m., school cafeteria, followed by lunch. See page 6.

Wednesday, November 15: Community potluck supper. Author Dr. Carole Owens, 6 p.m. See page 8.

Thursday, November 16: Monterey Broadband Committee open meeting to learn about high-speed broadband network options. See page 5.

To receive the monthly calendar via email, write to montereynews9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area, and include your name. Print it (one page) and share it.

Saturday, November 18:

Meet Brian Fahey, our new sergeant, from 9 to 10 a.m., at town hall. See page 2.

Bidwell House 11th annual fall fundraising party, 7 p.m. See page 6.

Monday, November 27: Adult book group will discuss *The Chaperone*, by Laura Moriarty.

Saturday, December 2:

Skating rink setup, 9:30 a.m., firehouse pavilion. See page 4.

Made in Monterey artisans' show, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., community center. See page 10.

Monday, December 4, and Tuesday, December 5: Deliver art works to the Knox Gallery for the upcoming community exhibit, *Eclipse*. See page 4.

Thursdays, December 7 and January 4: Town Yarners, a fiber arts handwork gathering, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 9.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* editorial address is PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions or inquiries may also be sent to montereynews9@gmail.com or telephone us at 413-528-4007 or email

October 2017 Contributors

The late fall and through winter is the cash flow home stretch for the Monterey News. Each year we receive three hundred and fifty to four hundred contributions. Each month we distribute nine hundred to a thousand printed copies, and nearly two hundred electronic copies. Thank you very much to the steadfast contributors who make this available to so many for free.

Our October contributors were:

Dorothy and Bill Enlund
Mike Freudlich
Judith Friedman
Scott Jervas
Gillian Panchy
Seymour Zager

Puerto Rico Help– Make a Difference Day

Mayra and I have been working hard on trying to send much needed food supplies to Puerto Rico. Through Mayra's friends and family back on the island, we have been able to compile a list of families that are in need of food and other essential supplies.

We are aware that there are many of us in our community who are deeply saddened and concerned by the devastation and the treatment of the US citizens living in Puerto Rico. Five weeks after the storm hit Puerto Rico, most Puerto Rican families are still without electricity and running water.

Our son's school had "Make a Difference Day." The entire school community donated essential items and because of their compassion and commitment to help, we shipped seventy-eight boxes! However, there are still families on the list that did not get a box. Mayra and I want to ship a box to all the families on the list.

Here are a few ways you can help:

1. Adopt a Box—The cost to ship each box is $18.95. At this time, we have diapers and some supplies left to fill the boxes. You can include a note and a self-addressed envelope if you wish to hear back from the family that receives your box. You can mail a check to Mayra or myself at PO Box 342, Monterey

2. If you want to donate food and/or supplies, you can drop them off on our porch at 64 Hupi Road. There will be a basket on the porch for items. Things needed—canned fish, meat, beans, rice, canned vegetables and fruit, protein bars, boxed milk, anything you can think of. All items must be non-perishable and no glass containers.

3. If you want some addresses of families because you want to send boxes on your own, please email Mayra at rodriguez.mayra77@yahoo.com

As one of Alex's friends said at lunch after "Make a Difference Day," "it really feels good helping people."

In gratitude,

—Wendy Benjamin
and Mayra Rodriguez

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